



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P.A. Graef et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WEYE118389

Application No.: 10/021,668

Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: December 7, 2001

Examiner: J.F. Stephens

Title: UNITARY DISTRIBUTION LAYER

RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 9

Seattle, Washington 98101

October 17, 2003

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed September 10, 2003 (Paper No. 9), please enter the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 31-36 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-30 and 37-40 have been rejected. Reconsideration of Claims 1-40 in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

On August 20, 2003, the Examiner telephoned Mr. Jack Crawford regarding an election of species requirement. Mr. Crawford made a provisional election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Species I, Claims 1-30 and 37-40, directed to a fibrous layer comprising a blend of crosslinked fibers and noncrosslinked cellulosic fibers.

Election of Species

Applicants confirm the election of Species I, directed to a fibrous layer comprising a blend of crosslinked fibers and noncrosslinked fibers, for examination. Claims 1-30 and 27-40 read on the elected species. Applicants respectfully request that, upon allowance of a generic

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESSSM
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100